

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJ: ELECTIONS FOR CHAIRMEN OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES

1. AFTER SEVEN WEEKS RECESS TO ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES ON COMPOSITION OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, CONGRESS FINALLY WAS ABLE TO ELECT CHAIRMEN OF ITS 13 COMMITTEES JULY 21 AND APPOINT REMAINING MEMBERS JULY 22, GETTING THE 1976-77 SESSION UNDER WAY AT LAST. THE OLD PID-MLN-CAO COALITION REEMERGED. PID RECEIVED 5 CHAIRMENSHIPS AND MLN AND CAO 4 APEIECE. DCG UNSUCCESSFULLY RAN ITS OWN PEOPLE FOR EACH POSITION WHILE PR VOTED IN BLANK OR WERE ABSENT FOR ALL BUT 2 VOTES. DCG AND PR TOGETHER RECEIVED 12 OUT OF THE 91 COMMITTEE SEATS, SAME NUMBER AS IN 1974-75 SESSION, BUT MUCH LESS THAN LAST YEAR.

2. COMMENT: PR HAD BEEN PROMISED FIVE CHAIRMANSIPS DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR ITS SUPPORT OF MLN-CAO LEADERSHIP SLATE IN JUNE 15 VOTING, BUT, RACKED BY INTERNAL FIGHTING OVER APPARENT INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THAT SUPPORT AND PR'S "REVOLUTIONARY" IMAGE, DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT ANY CHAIRMANSIPS RATHER THAN AGGRAVATE ITS PROBLEM BY ACCEPTING A SHARE OF THE SPOILS AGAIN. PR WITHDRAWAL MADE POSSIBLE A FULL-FLEDGED REVIVAL OF THE OLD COALITION, AND CONGRESSMENT FROM BOTH MLN AND PID HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT MLN IS NOW FULLY BACK IN THE FOLD. ALLOCATION OF CHAIRMANSIPS WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY APPROVED

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BY PRESIDENT LAUGERUD, AND DECISION TO EXCLUDE DCG FROM

CHAIRMANSHIPS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF LAUGERUD'S PRESENT DIS-
ENCHANTMENT WITH CHIRSTIAN DEMOCRATS. ANDREWS

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